G.R.S. IX—5]

Previous references. 1923. File No. 8-23

(Ref) Serial Nos. 1

Later references.

Reserve Index

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. One

Part B for [redacted] 23

SUBJECT

Representation of the Kotte Kalagara Sangha Deputation in the matter of direct representation to the Sangha in the newly constituted assemblies.

Sec 1

File

(P) 18/(E)

Printed on the Multigraph.

25-4-23

2046

2

REPLY

(To be written on this margin.)

Office of the Dewan of Mysore.

NOTE.

Dated 5th Novembe... 192..

(Also being put for printing)

A copy of the abstract of t representation made by a deputation from the Vokkaligara Sangha, which waited on the Dewan at Mysore on the 28th ~~instt~~ October 1923, and of the remarks made by the Dewan in reply, is forwarded, with compliments, to the Chief Secretary to Government for favour of information and record.

A copy has been already sent for (~~being placed on~~) the Press Table.

By order,

S.S. 5.11.23.

Private Secretary to the Dewan.

The Chief Secretary to Govt with compliments.

Please submit a file, from this

6/4.

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(2)

THE VOKKALIGARA SANGHA DEPUTATION.

(Camp Mysore, dated the 28th October, 1923.)

*****

A deputation consisting of the marginally noted members of the Vokkaligara Sangha waited upon the Dewan for a re-consideration of their interests in the newly constituted Representative Assembly. The rules at present existing do not provide for the special representation of their interests by the return of two members of their Sangha as heretofore. Mr. Vijaya Deva urged the continuance of this privilege on the following lines:-

1. Mr. H. Doranna of Hassan,
2. " M. Nanjappa of Kantarajpur, Hassan District,
3. " Patel B. Nanjappa of Kantarajpur, Hassan District,
4. " H. Nanjaiya of Birisave, Hassan District,
5. " Venkatappa Gowda of Thirthahalli,
6. " Vema Reddy of Malur,
7. " K.H. Vijaya Deva, M.A., Bar-at-Law, Bangalore,
8. " Mekere Dase Gowda of Chennapatna,
9. " M.C. Linge Gowda, Maddur,
10. " S.C. Mallaiya of Maddur,
11. " Chennappa of Maddur,
12. " S. Thimme Gowda of Sheelnere, Krishnarajpet Taluk,
13. " M. Puttananjappa of Mysore,
14. " H.C. Dasappa, Advocate, Mysore,
15. " Kempe Gowda of Henamanally, Mandya Taluk,
16. " N. Thimme Gowda of Nagamangala.

(1) Their Sangha is formed with the object of organizing the various activities of the Vokkaligas, such as agricultural, social, political, etc., with a view to their general uplift, not merely for educational purposes as is frequently misunderstood.

(2) As at present a large number of the Vokkaliga voters are not educated sufficiently, the actual return of Vokkaliga members to the Assembly is bound to fall short of what is adequate in proportion to their numbers.

(3) Provision has been made for the representation of special interests in the Assembly, such as trade, commerce, etc. Agriculture being the main industry [illegible] per cent.

(3 4

of the population of the State, it deserves special representation. The Sangha, although based on a communal basis in actuality represents to a large extent this important interest. Therefore, special representation may be continued as heretofore.

(4) Although a large number of the members may come from the agricultural classes, it was fallacious to argue that they could adequately represent agricultural interests as it was not their duty to do so. They are not responsible to their constituencies for safeguarding agricultural interests.

Mr. Vema Reddy from Kolar represented that under the new rules, Vokkaligas may not get adequate representation in proportion to their numbers; secondly, the Vokkaligas who are returned through the general election being all mofussil members, may not adequately represent the general agricultural interests of the country. Special reservation was therefore necessary for the Sangha, for the adequate representation of the general agricultural interests of the State. At present, this is the only association which serves the agricultural interests of the country.

Mr. M.C.Linge Gowda of Maddur represented that the community is very backward and could not get adequate representation, as is evident from previous experience, that is to say, the number of members returned to the Representative Assembly through general elections was far short of ~~their~~ its adequate needs so far. So he urged for the reservation of two seats in the Representative Assembly and one seat in the Legislative Council for the Sangha.

Mr. Venkatappa Reddy of Tirthahalli advanced the argument that through the general elections the best representatives of the Vokkaliga Sangha were not ensured

a place but that any Vokkaliga, irrespective of whether he was a member of the Sangha or not, might be elected. The Sangha represents the best talents of the Vokkaliga community and it was necessary to ensure that the educated section of the community should have a special reservation of two seats at least in the Representative Assembly.

Mr. H.Manjiah of Hassan thanked the Dewan for the great interest he was taking in the Vokkaliga community and expressed the satisfaction of the community for the fact that during his regime they had at least 25 members in the Assembly, whereas in previous years they had not gone above 10.

Mr. H.C.Dasappa of Mysore said that the Sangha deserves special representation on account of the Sangha being identified with the agricultural interests of the State to a large extent.

In reply to a query from the Dewan as to what the Sangha had done in furtherance of the agricultural interests of the country, Mr.Dasappa replied that in their conferences it was a special feature to popularize modern methods by demonstrations, and secondly, that the newspaper conducted by the Sangha which had on the roll of subscribers not merely Vokkaligas but agriculturists of all classes and communities, was devoting special column for popularizing modern methods of agriculture with the masses. He also urged that the reasons for which they had been given special representation heretofore had not ceased to exist under the new conditions.

MrPuttamadappa and the other members of the deputation also spoke at some length, urging some of the reasons detailed above.

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The Dewan in his reply said that he had given very deep consideration to this matter before Government arrived at the decisions indicated in the Government Order promulgated on the 27th October. He had anticipated, to a certain extent, the disappointment that the Sangha would feel, but exhorted them to go to the general electorates for ensuring a proper representation of their community in the Representative Assembly. He said that in the provision of seats for special interests, minorities, and communal interests, there had been no uniform principle adhered to heretofore, with the result that there was an overlapping to some extent. An attempt has been made for the first time to proceed on a scientific basis, and it was necessary for the Vokkaliga community to ~~wit~~ wait and see if their interest was neglected and then ask for special representation.

Regarding their argument that the Sangha identified itself with the agricultural interests of the State, the Dewan said that agriculture is not a special interest but that it was a general interest in the sense that it ~~wa~~ was the interest of the majority of the people in the country as well as that of the Sirkar. The Vokkaligara Sangha had been given representation through only one member under the old scheme. It really meant nothing. Under the scheme now inaugurated, it has been attempted to do away with any kind of communal electorates. The interests that needed strict protection were only two, viz., the minority interests and the special interests. The Sangha could not say that they represented a minority interest as the Vokkaligas form the bulk of the population of the State. They do not represent any special interest, either, as the Sangha did not include the agricultural interests of the other communities including ten lakhs of panchama population besides other castes.

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The agricultural population of Mysore is as much as 60 per cent., of which, no doubt, the Vokkaliga community forms a large proportion. But if an association was formed for the promotion of the general agricultural interests in the State irrespective of caste, creed or nationality, it was then open to Government to consider whether special representation has to be given to the Association or not. In any case, the Vokkaligara Sangha as at present constituted was not such an association. The Dewan was of opinion that under the present scheme it was not necessary to consider agriculture as a special interest as the majority of the members that may be returned to the Assembly would adequately represent the interests of this industry.

Secondly, it was fallacious to think that by the discontinuance of the present practice of allowing the Sangha to return one or two members to the Assembly, ~~that~~ the agricultural interests in the State would suffer. The Sangha ought to realize that Government by discontinuing the practice hitherto obtaining, of allowing indirect election, were actually encouraging the voters to resort to general election for finding adequate representation of their interests. Thereby, the Government were encouraging the people to co-operate with each other more and more instead of countenancing cleavages. He exhorted the Sangha to work among the voters of the Vokkaliga community in order to ensure that an adequate number of their members were elected for the ensuing session of the Representative Assembly. The Dewan personally did not feel the least doubt that a large number of the Vokkaliga members would easily be returned to the Assembly in view of the large number of voters belonging to that community.

The Dewan said he was sorry to give such a definite reply in the negative to their request, which was entirely opposed to the general principle of the new scheme and

which

really did not give them in the past any special advantages or privileges. All the members of the deputation were presumably members of the Sangha but they were returned by popular vote. So to have another from the Sangha representing it as such would only mean that he would represent the communal interests of the Vokkaligas. Such a separate representation was really unnecessary having regard to so many others already there, but it ~~is~~ was continued only as a relic of the past and cannot be permitted under the new ~~xkxx~~ scheme which did not recognise the claims of communal interests of major communities for separate representation.

The Dewan hoped that with the general awakening of the masses the Vokkaligas would have a legitimate representation of all their interests in the new Assembly.

(8 9

Record of Cases submitted for the Orders of His Highness the Maharaja

Ref 8-23-1.

H.H.No 219
3-11-1923.

Subject.

Representation of the Vokkaligara Sangha Deputation in the matter of direct representation to the Sangha in the newly constituted Assemblies.

325

Order.

~~KRW~~
7/11/23

8. no. 678/Ref.

Secy to Govt.

8 NOV 1923

3528
14/11

First Member 10/11

13/11

Secretary 8/11/24

CS 370 15-11-23

8/11/24

19 10

Submitted to His Highness.

...

submit herewith for His Highness' gracious perusal an abstract of the representation made by a deputation from the members of the Vokkaligara Sangha which waited upon me at Mysore on the 28th ultimo to urge the desirability of giving the Sangha the privilege of direct representation in the newly constituted Assemblies, and of the remarks made by me in reply.

Bangalore,
3rd November 1923.

3 NOV 1923

(10 11

THE VOKKALIGARA SANGHA DEPUTATION.

(Camp Mysore, dated the 28th October, 1923.)

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Mr. Vema Reddy from Malur represented that under the new rules, Vokkaligas may not get adequate representation in proportion to their numbers; secondly, the Vokkaligas who are returned through the general election being all mofussil members, may not adequately represent the general agricultural interests of the country. Special reservation was therefore necessary for the Sangha, for the adequate representation of the general agricultural interests of the State. At present, this is the only association which serves the agricultural interests of the country.

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In reply to a query from the Dewan as to what the Sangha had done in furtherance of the agricultural interests of the country, Mr.Dasappa replied that in their conferences it was a special feature to popularize modern methods by demonstrations, and secondly, that the newspaper conducted by the Sangha which had on the roll of subscribers not merely Vokkaligas but agriculturists of all classes and communities, was devoting special columns for popularizing modern methods of agriculture with the masses. He also urged that the reasons for which they had been given special representation heretofore had not ceased to exist under the new conditions.

Mr Puttamadappa and the other members of the deputation also spoke at some length, urging some of the reasons detailed above.

The Dewan in his reply said that he had given very deep consideration to this matter before Government arrived at the decisions indicated in the Government Order promulgated on the 27th October. He had anticipated, to a certain extent, the disappointment that the Sangha would feel, but exhorted them to go to the general electorates for ensuring a proper representation of their community in the Representative Assembly. He said that in the provision of seats for special interests, minorities, and communal interests, there had been no uniform principle adhered to heretofore, with the result that there was an overlapping to some extent. An attempt has been made for the first time to proceed on a scientific basis, and it was necessary for the Vokkaliga community to ~~wit~~ wait and see if their interest was neglected and then ask for special representation.

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The Dewan hoped that with the general awakening of the masses the Vokkaligas would have a legitimate representation of all their interests in the new Assembly.

THE VOKKALIGARA SANGHA DEPUTATION.

(CAMP MYSORE, DATED 28TH OCTOBER 1923.)

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Mr. Puttananjappa and the other members of the deputation also spoke at some length, urging some of the reasons detailed above.

DEWAN'S REPLY.

The Dewan in his reply said that he had given very deep consideration to this matter before Government arrived at the decisions indicated in the Government Order promulgated on the 27th October. He had anticipated, to a certain extent, the disappointment that the Sangha would feel, but exhorted them to go to the general electorates for ensuring a proper representation of their community in the Representative Assembly. He said that in the provision of seats for special interests, minorities, and communal interests, there had been no uniform principle adhered to heretofore, with the result that there was an overlapping to some extent. An attempt has been made for the first time to proceed on a scientific basis, and it was necessary for the Vokkaliga community to wait and see if their interest was neglected and then ask for special representation.

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The Dewan said he was sorry to give such a definite reply in the negative to their request which was entirely opposed to the general principle of the new scheme and which really did not give them in the past any special advantages or privileges. All the members of the deputation were presumably members of the Sangha but they were returned by popular vote. So to have another from the Sangha representing it as such would only mean that he would represent the communal interests of the Vokkaligas. Such a separate representation was really unnecessary having regard to so many others already there, but it was continued only as a relic of the past and cannot be permitted under the new scheme which did not recognise the claims of communal interests of major communities for separate representation.

The Dewan hoped that with the general awakening of the masses the Vokkaligas would have a legitimate representation of all their interests in the new Assembly.